

While I agree with the premise that morse code is a sometimes critical mode of communications and I agree that the USA is seen as a leader, I must respectfully disagree with the proposals set forth herein. I am a VE and have seen many people have great difficulty with morse code exams, and while I feel the code-only band segments should definitely remain and that code proficiency should be encouraged, I do NOT feel it should be required and certainly do not feel the extra class license should have it's code speed increased. I feel it creates an unfair situation for people who have no interest in CW operations to be required to learn it and pass a test when their interest in radio lies elsewhere, and that person could be of great benefit to the amateur radio service were they not precluded by code tests. Therefore I respectfully request that the commission deny this petition, and in it's place grant RM-10867 or, better still, RM-10870.